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# THE DAILY TEXAN

TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High 80 Low 64

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

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TEXAS RELAYS COVERAGE

## City to host thousands for Texas Relays

**Plagued by accusations of racism, police prepare to ramp up security during track-and-field event**

By Bobby Longoria  
Daily Texan Staff

The University will host thousands of athletes and visitors Wednesday through Saturday for the 83rd Clyde Littlefield

Texas Relays, a statewide track event that has received increased attention because of a mall closure last year, which some community members believe was racially predicated.

The relays are a track-and-field competition for high school, college and professional athletes held annually at the Mike A. Myers Track and Soccer Stadium on campus. The influx of people coming into Austin during the relays is comparable in size to South By Southwest and Austin City Limits Music Festival crowds. The event

attracts a large number of young people, City Councilwoman Sher-yl Cole said. During last year's event, Highland Mall officials met resistance after closing early at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 4.

Many felt the decision to close early was racially charged against visiting patrons, which are and historically have been primarily

black youths, Cole said.

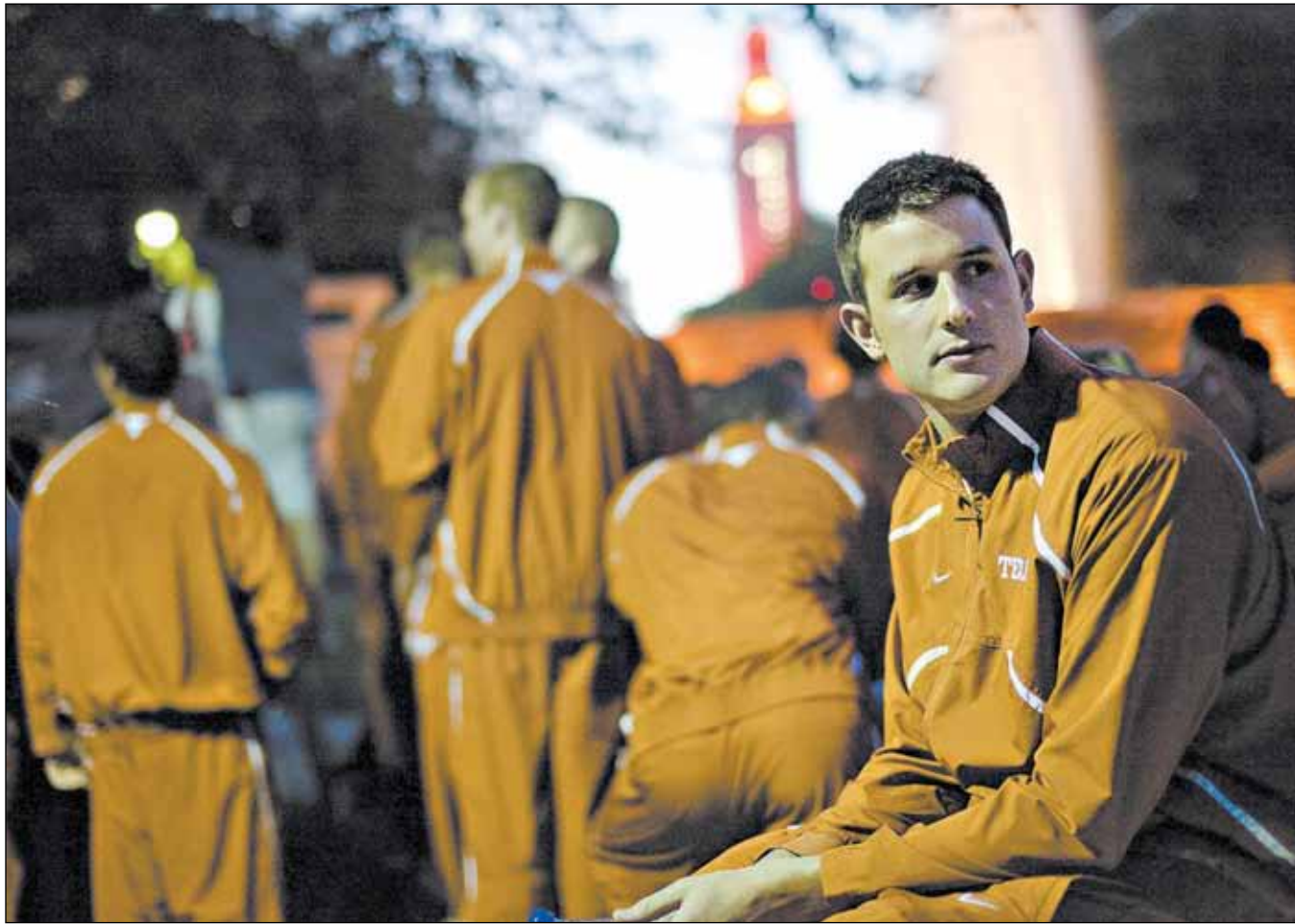
"We pride ourselves on being a vibrant, creative community that embraces diversity, and I felt like that act was directly contradictory to that," she said. "It was not welcoming and was intolerant. We have to recognize that there is a young, distinct urban culture that comes to town during Texas

Relays, and we don't need to shun that culture. We need to process what it takes to keep them entertained."

**INSIDE:**  
UT dual-threat  
prepares for  
big event  
on page 7

RELAYS continues on page 2

## Men's teams swim, dive to No. 1



Peyton McGee | Daily Texan Staff

Swimmer Scott Jostes waits with his teammates to take team photographs in front of the East Mall Fountain on Tuesday to celebrate their recent national championship win.

## Tower lit as Longhorns win first national championship since '06

By Manesh Upadhyaya  
Daily Texan Staff

It's not every night that the UT Tower is lit burnt orange with a No. 1 gleaming on all four sides. In fact, it hasn't happened since 2006, when the women's indoor track team won the national championship.

On Sunday, the men's swimming and diving team members were named na-

tional champions in Columbus, Ohio, and the tower was lit Tuesday in recognition of its achievement.

The win capped off a memorable season for coach Eddie Reese and his men. The Longhorns only had one loss the entire season, which came against the then-No. 2 Arizona Wildcats at the end of January. Since then, Texas went on to bigger

and better things, such as winning a 14th consecutive Big 12 Conference title and a 10th national championship.

In his 32nd year at Texas, Reese has implemented a unique coaching system that gets the best performance out of his swimmers.

SWIM continues on page 9

## Austin tops list of Texas cities with priciest housing

By Collin Eaton  
Daily Texan Staff

Austin's housing and apartment rent prices are the highest of any city in Texas, according to a March 23 study by the Center for Housing Policy, a research center in Washington, D.C.

The median home price in Austin is \$176,000, ranking it the 73rd most expensive place to live out of 207 metropolitan areas across the country. Houston's, Dallas' and San Antonio's median home prices are \$147,000, \$154,000 and \$145,000, respectively. Austin is the 65th most expensive rental market, with an average rent price of \$954, while

Houston, Dallas and San Antonio have average rent prices of \$892, \$894 and \$796, respectively.

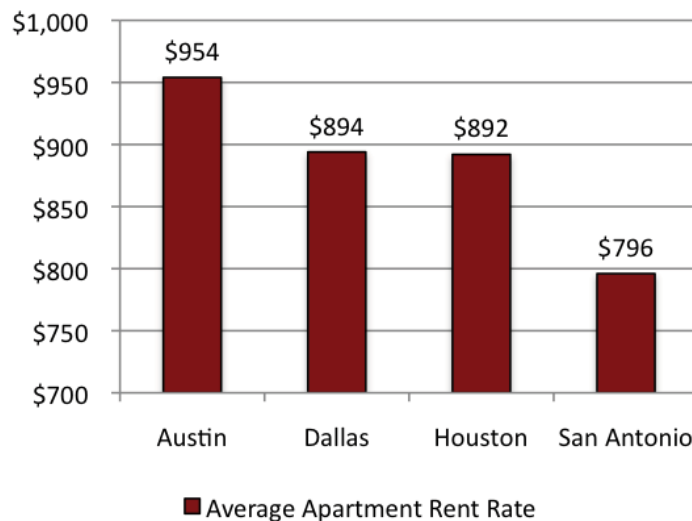
Jim Gaines, a research economist with the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University, said prices are higher in Austin because the city's desirability drives up demand for housing and rent. Austin also restricts the supply of housing more than other Texas cities with building codes, zoning laws and requirements.

"The combination of being in the central part of Texas, the weather, the Hill Country, the culture of the University, the entertainment

RENT continues on page 2

### The average apartment rent rates for the four largest cities in Texas

Source: The Center for Housing Policy



## UT joins discussion about student financial aid act

By Rachel Burkhart  
Daily Texan Staff

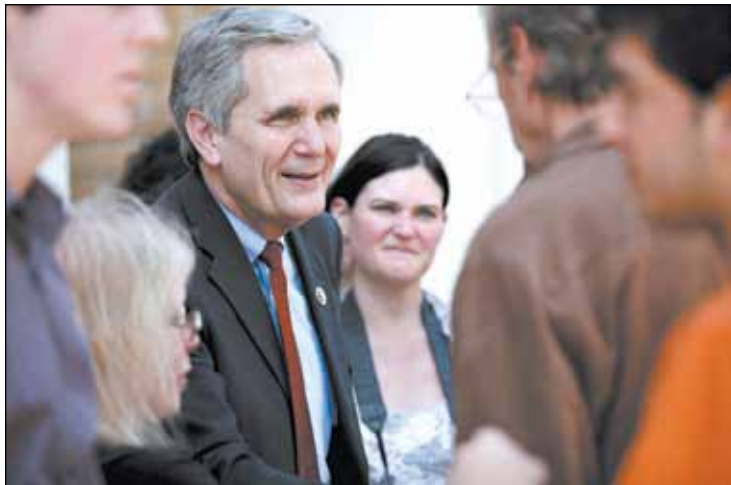
Representatives from the city of Austin and student leaders from UT, Austin Community College, Huston-Tillotson University and St. Edward's University joined U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett on Tuesday to discuss how the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act will affect Austin students.

Doggett, a Democrat who represents parts of the Austin area, said the act would provide Texans with

\$2.5 billion in additional student financial aid over the course of the next decade. The event took place on the main steps of Austin Community College's Rio Grande Campus, which once housed Doggett's alma mater, Austin High School.

Obama signed the act into law Tuesday at Northern Virginia Community College's Alexandria campus. The act strengthens the federal Pell Grant program, invests in

AID continues on page 5



Peyton McGee | Daily Texan Staff

U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett greets supporters on the main steps of ACC's Rio Grande Campus after giving a speech about the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act on Tuesday.

## Proposed official animal reflects 'batty' history

By Priscilla Totiyapungprasert  
Daily Texan Staff

For nearly 30 years, flocks of Mexican free-tailed bats have nestled beneath the Congress Avenue Bridge. More than 1.5 million bats call the bridge home, making it the world's largest urban bat colony, but the animal may soon be more than just an Austin cultural icon.

In the spirit of promoting city pride, Mayor Lee Leffingwell announced a proposal Tuesday morning to make the bat the official animal of Austin. City Council will vote on the proposal April 8.

"The bats are an incredible tourist attraction and such a unique part of Austin," said Mark Nathan, the mayor's chief of staff. "They're one of the things that helps keep Austin weird, so they're definitely worthy of being celebrated."

The bat colony appeared in the 1980s when the Congress Avenue Bridge was being rebuilt, although there were probably a few bats living under the bridge already, said Susan Kwasniak, the marketing executive for Austin-based Bat Conservation International Inc. The joints used to hold the pieces of the bridge together provided a warm and secure place for bats



Tamir Kalifa | Daily Texan file photo

Mexican free-tailed bats fly out from under the Congress Avenue Bridge on July 24 as barge-riders look on. The bats draw in 125,000 visitors to Austin each year and an estimated \$12 million in revenue.

to roost, she said.

As the bat population grew, many Austin residents in the mid-1980s feared the bats were a health hazard and petitioned to eradicate the bats with poison, Kwasniak said. In one of its earliest conservation projects,

Bat Conservation International worked to disprove these fears, she said.

"People were scared the bats would come down and bite everyone, that the whole city would get rabies, that the bats would get caught in their hair,"

Kwasniak said. "It's terrific that 20 years later, bats are celebrated instead of feared."

The bats attract 125,000 visitors each year, generating an estimated \$12 million in revenue,

BATS continues on page 2









Alexei Nikolsky | Associated Press

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin speaks with a survivor of the metro bomb explosions as he visits Botkinskaya Hospital in Moscow on Monday.

## Putin talks tough after bombings

By Lynn Berry

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — A day after twin suicide bombings in the subway that killed 39 people, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin told Russians that he is certain the masterminds of the attacks would be found.

“We know they are lying low, but it is already a matter of pride for the law enforcement agencies to drag them out of the sewer and into broad daylight,” Putin said.

The language recalled Putin’s famous threat to “wipe out the

Chechen rebels in the outhouse” after they were blamed for a series of apartment building bombings that terrorized Moscow in 1999.

Putin, as prime minister at the time, sent in overwhelming military force to pound the region into submission and was elected president the following year.

Now in his second stint as prime minister after serving two full terms as president, Putin has an excuse to revert to the tough line that shored up his authority following past terrorist attacks.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but many speculated that they were retaliation for the recent killings of Islamic militant leaders in the North Caucasus, including one known for training suicide bombers.

Many opposition leaders and rights activists said they feared the subway bombings would be a convenient excuse for the government to put increased pressure on the opposition, perhaps by cracking down even harder on street protests.

But the attacks have also given new impetus to President Dmitry Medvedev’s efforts to address the root causes of the terrorism in the Caucasus, where poverty, corruption and heavy-handed tactics by security forces have provided fertile ground for Islamic militants.

“The question is whether there will be accomplishments with social development to give people an alternative to blowing themselves up,” said Sam Greene, a political analyst with the Carnegie Moscow Center.

## Bullying raises questions about school’s vigilance

By Denise Lavoie

The Associated Press

BOSTON — A 15-year-old girl hanged herself after she was harassed for months — taunting and threats that school administrators knew about but did not stop.

District Attorney Elizabeth Scheibel said the inaction of school officials was troublesome but not criminal.

More than 40 states have anti-bullying laws that generally require schools to adopt a set of preventive policies. But Marlene Snyder of Clemson University’s Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life said laws and policies don’t necessarily help if schools don’t follow through with intensive training for teachers and staff.

In upstate New York, the Mohawk Central School District agreed Monday to do more to protect students from harassment as part of a settlement with a gay teenager who claimed he was relentlessly bullied.

In the Massachusetts case,

school officials had previously said they did not know about Phoebe’s harassment before she committed suicide. They have said some students accused of taking part in the bullying have been disciplined and will not return to class.

Legal experts said it would be difficult to charge school officials criminally, but said Prince’s family could have a cause of action in a wrongful death lawsuit.

Massachusetts is one of only seven states without a specific law targeting school bullying, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The Legislature cited Phoebe’s death and the apparent suicide of 11-year-old Carl Walker-Hoover in passing anti-bullying legislation earlier this month. The Legislature still needs to approve a final version before sending it to the governor.

Many parents complain that the laws aren’t enforced consistently and that school officials don’t do enough to remove bullies from schools.



Don Treeger | Associated Press

On Jan. 15, a candlelight vigil was held for freshman Phoebe Prince, 15, who had killed herself the previous day.

## Murder reveals lapse in NY security

By Colleen Long

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — About half the 4,313 security cameras installed along New York City’s subways aren’t seeing a thing.

“A lot of those cameras don’t work, and maybe someday we’re going to get very badly hurt because of it,” Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Tuesday.

The problem of missing video came to light after two men were stabbed to death on the subway — and there was no camera installed in the station to catch an image of the killer. Darnell Morel and Ricardo Williams, both 24, were killed in a fight that started around 5 a.m. Sunday at the Christopher Street station, about four miles from the World Trade Center site.

The New York Police Department says it doesn’t depend on the surveillance cameras set up by the MTA — instead, officers patrol the subways and set up random bag searches in stations around the city.

The MTA, which just last week approved \$93 million in service

cuts, is in charge of the cameras within the subway system. Of the 4,313 cameras, 2,270 are working and 2,043 aren’t.

Meanwhile, about 600 agents stationed in the subways were laid off as a result of the budget.

A working, comprehensive surveillance system for the city’s many bridges and automobile tunnels is monitored 24 hours a day. But some of the officers who regularly patrol the bridges — and who could respond to a threat within minutes — have been taken off weekend shifts.

Greg Lombardi, vice president of the Bridge & Tunnel Officers Benevolent Association, said the cuts will make it more difficult to catch any miscreants.

The MTA said additional funding will be made available to add more cameras in priority areas.

The mayor said Tuesday that he was concerned about security, and that the city government had a plan in place that would’ve given enough money to the agency to improve security, as well as quality — but that Albany didn’t agree.

“I think it’s fair to say the MTA

does not have enough money to provide the level of security that people want and that we should have,” he said.

Police increased their presence in the New York subway after the suicide attacks Monday in Moscow’s subway in the time before rush hour began. Police closely monitor crimes in other cities and adapt their own strategy as needed.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly has made it no secret that he would like more cameras in public spaces, including the subway system, bridges and tunnels and on city streets.

Mayor Bloomberg cited a recent suicide bomb plot by a militant linked to al-Qaida as a reason New Yorkers must remain vigilant. Afghan immigrant Najibullah Zazi pleaded guilty in February to plotting to carry out a suicide bombing in the subways.

“The whole plan there was to build some bombs and blow up the subway,” he said. “Make no mistake about it, we have to work very hard to keep this subway system safe.”



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OVERVIEW

A political appointment

State Rep. Brian McCall will be the next chancellor of the Texas State University System, which includes Texas State University in San Marcos, the system announced yesterday. McCall, R-Plano, explained his choice by saying simply, “My interest in education has been long-standing.”

He has participated as a member of the House Higher Education Committee, where he was an author of House Bill 51, which used existing funds as an incentive for emerging research institutions to continue improving. Notably, the bill allocated a significant amount of money to the Texas State System.

We are heartened by McCall’s recent endorsement of State Board of Education candidate Thomas Ratliff, the more moderate Republican who ousted radical board leader Don McLeroy in the primaries, and by his role in helping dethrone far-right Republican Tom Craddick from his position as speaker of the House in favor of the slightly more moderate Joe Straus.

But as chairman of the Calendars Committee, McCall allowed several important initiatives for higher education to die without reaching the floor.

In the end, though we respect McCall’s small efforts to reduce the importance of politics in Texas education, we have to object to his appointment as another unfortunate example of cronyism.

McCall has no experience leading any aspect of a university and is unqualified for the position. Appointing a Republican representative to the head of a higher education system emphasizes Texas’ problem with politicized education.

Fill out the census questionnaire

OK, y’all. Turn in your census questionnaires. Now.

Texas is lagging significantly behind other states in the response rate. Nationwide, the response rate currently sits at 46 percent, and as of Tuesday, Texas was lagging 7 percentage points behind, according to The Texas Tribune. And Austin is among the least responsive cities in Texas, with a rate of only 33 percent.

According to an interactive participation map on the U.S. Census Bureau’s Web site, the state lags behind 48 other states in census participation.

Texas residents’ failure to return a form that takes all of a minute to fill out led Robert Groves, director of the bureau, to issue a statement yesterday reminding the state that the federal government must send a census worker — “at a significant taxpayer cost” — to every Texas household that does not return its form.

Data collected by the census will be used to determine how many seats Texas will get in Congress and to distribute more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year for the next decade.

UT is the state’s flagship university, and an overwhelming majority of us are in-state students. We, as students, have an even larger obligation to fill out our census forms to give a proper picture what Texas looks like today.

If you have not already, complete your census form and drop it in the closest mailbox.

No postage stamp is necessary, and you will be performing a civic duty no less important than voting on Election Day. Afterward, call your parents and ask if they have sent their form in yet.

GALLERY



Celebrating César

By James Harrington  
Daily Texan Guest Columnist

March 31 is César Chávez’s birthday, a holiday in eight states. Parks, cultural centers, libraries, schools and streets carry his name in cities across Texas and the United States.

Someday, his birthday will also be a holiday in Texas, to recognize him as a civil rights hero and a labor leader for one of the most abused and exploited groups of workers, many of whom live in Texas.

Chávez, like Mohandas Gandhi and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., was a spiritual figure, a crusader for nonviolent social change. Like Gandhi and King, Chávez used peaceful tactics such as fasts, boycotts, strikes and pilgrimages.

When he died in 1993, at age 66, more than 50,000 of us marched in his funeral under a hot Delano sun. People felt his love and, in turn, showed him their love. I saw this a hundred times in my work with him; it was an honor.

Education was always a priority for Chávez who, after eighth grade, had to leave school to work in the fields as a migrant laborer to support his family. Although his formal education was incomplete, Chávez had a great intellectual curiosity, reading widely throughout his life and teaching himself as much as possible.

After serving in the U.S. Navy, Chávez became an organizer with the Community Service Organization, a prominent Latino civil rights group. He coordinated voter registration drives and directed campaigns against racial and economic discrimination.

But Chávez wanted to build an organization to protect and serve farm workers, whose poverty and disenfranchisement he had shared as a young man.

He left the organization in 1962 to found the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United

Farm Workers of America.

For more than three decades, Chávez led the first successful farm workers union in U.S. history, securing dignity, respect, fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, humane working conditions and other protections for hundreds of thousands of farm laborers.

He led successful strikes and boycotts that won the first industry-wide labor contracts in American agriculture.

His impact on Texans was enormous. It extended far beyond the thousands of Texas farm laborers who worked as migrants in California.

His efforts to open the doors of colleges and universities to the Hispanic community reached deep into Texas and, in turn, opened doors to greater economic opportunity.

Chávez’s life transcends any one cause or struggle. He was a unique and humble leader who inspired millions of Americans — and Texans — to seek social justice and civil rights for poor and disenfranchised people in our society. Chávez helped do this by forging an extraordinary national coalition of students, middle-class consumers, trade unionists, religious groups and minorities here in Texas and throughout the nation.

Chávez’s life cannot be measured in material terms. He never earned more than \$6,000 a year. He never owned a house.

Rather, we measure his life as a person who stood — and worked — for equality, justice and dignity for all Americans. As Robert Kennedy once said, Chávez was “one of the heroic figures of our time.”

We celebrate his birthday, not just to honor him, but also to recommit ourselves to the same struggle to make our community, our state and our country a better place for our children and grandchildren — and to hold out that promise for all humankind.

Harrington is the director of the Texas Civil Rights Project and an adjunct professor at the UT School of Law.

Optimistic about energy



By Calvin Sloan  
Daily Texan Columnist

On Jan. 10, 1901, the ground on Spindletop Hill in Beaumont began to shake. Short spats of mud were ejected out of Lucas No. 1, and six tons of drill pipe were bizarrely catapulted out of the oil well, knocking off the top of the derrick. Before long, a gushing stream of crude oil shot up 150 feet in the air at a rate of 100,000 barrels per day. In the words of historian Daniel Yergin, “the Texas oil boom was on” — and the world would never be the same.

More than 100 years later, Texas is back in the same position, albeit in a far less dramatic manner, ready to redefine the world’s energy order and lead our country into a new era.

At least that’s what UT associate engineering professor Michael Webber suggests, and given his outstanding credentials, we would be foolish not to listen.

Webber is an associate director of the Center for International Energy & Environmental Policy in the Jackson School of Geosciences, a fellow of the Strauss Center for International Security and Law at the LBJ School of Public Affairs and an acclaimed lecturer who has provided testimony to the U.S. Senate and the United Nations.

When I spoke with Webber a couple of weeks ago about the current state of energy in America, I was taken aback yet encouraged by his optimism. Most scholars of ecology tend to be a little despondent — understandably — when they speak about their respective fields. But Webber, with his jovial smile and demeanor, seems to be genuinely enthused and prepared to take on the challenges that lie ahead.

Webber suggests that instead of rejecting climate legislation, Texans should embrace it. Policies that catalyze a green-energy transition will benefit the state, for, as Webber rationally observed, “the world is moving towards low-carbon fuels like wind, solar, natural gas and nuclear — all of which do better in Texas.”

“We have more land, [and] therefore more photons,” Webber said, confirming that even the “Everything is Bigger in Texas” motto can be made green. The turbines that now line regions of the countryside are there for a reason, because “we have good continental winds.”

And as Texas oil billionaire T. Boone Pickens is always keen to point out, Texas is unusually abundant in natural gas, which, as a low-carbon, domestic energy source, can serve as a bridge fuel for our energy transition.

That transition “for Texas could be a very good news story,” but “because we are the traditional oil and gas leader in the world,” many Texans remain skeptical, he said.

Webber added, however, that “just as we got rich off of oil and gas because we had oil and gas, we might get rich off of wind and solar because we have the wind and solar.”

Without straying too far into the hypothetical realm at the end of our conversation, Webber acknowledged that “just because we could [solve the energy problem] with off-the-shelf technology that exists within a decade does not mean that the policy, economic or cultural hurdles are not real.”

These hurdles are perhaps larger than we might like to acknowledge, but the fact that Webber recognized their existence strengthens the influence of his optimism.

Back in 1979, Jimmy Carter, in his indispensable “malaise speech,” declared war on America’s “energy problem.” The OPEC embargo and the Iranian Revolution of that decade had jolted the public consciousness of the country, so much so that the president was able to speak with utmost candor about the moral complications of sustaining an “intolerable dependence on foreign oil.”

Carter spoke of the two paths that America could follow: one that would involve conservation and innovation, and another in which the status quo would lead “to fragmentation and self-interest” and “a mistaken idea of freedom, the right to grasp for ourselves some advantage over others.”

With the removal of Carter’s solar panels from the White House in 1981, America had clearly chosen the path it wished to pursue, and the rest is history.

Three decades later, with our country seeking a way to redefine growth to fit a sustainable model, the sentiment of Carter’s speech, in conjunction with Webber’s technical optimism, should move us all — Texans in particular — to confront our energy challenge at full speed.

As Webber suggests, “we have solutions in hand” for a green transition; it all depends on whether or not “we play our cards right.”

Tune in tonight to “The Pursuit of Injustice” on 91.7 KVRX UT student radio at 8 p.m. for the full interview.

Sloan is a government senior.

LEGALESE

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GALLERY





# Astronaut urges job exploration

**By Hannah Jones**  
Daily Texan Staff

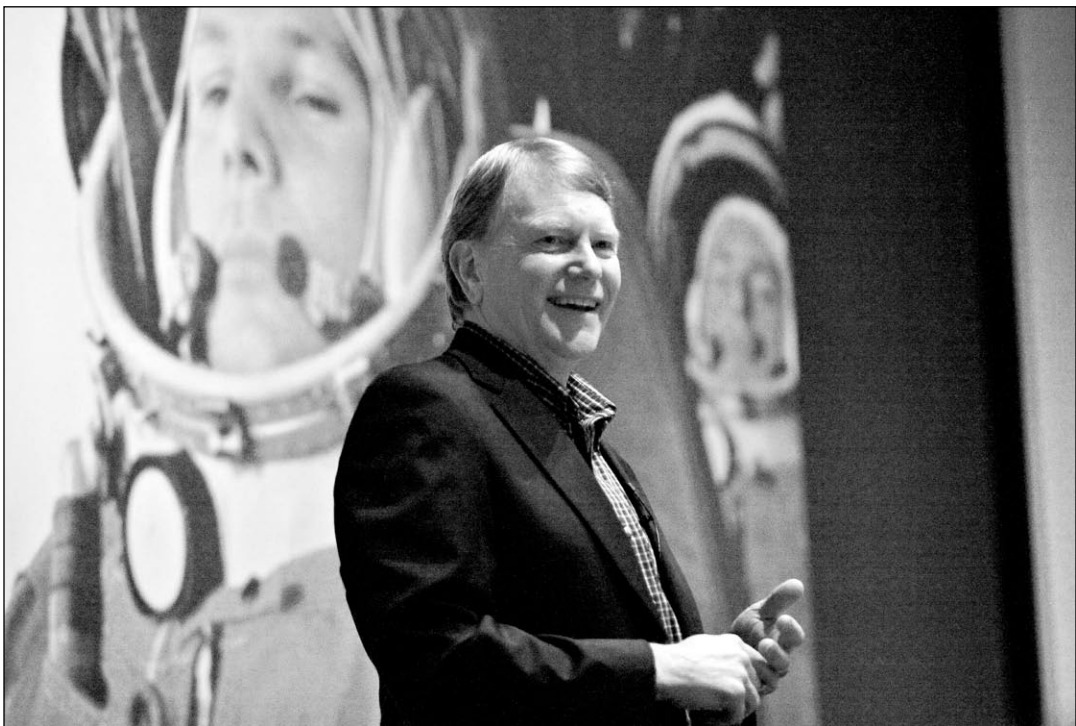
A former astronaut spoke Tuesday to students and families, expressing hope that students will explore many interests to succeed in the evolving job market.

Former National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronaut George Nelson, who spent nearly two and a half weeks in space throughout his career, gave a talk sponsored by the Department of Physics. He encouraged students to follow their interests despite what other people tell them to do.

In 1972, Nelson received a bachelor's degree in physics from Harvey Mudd College in California and later earned a master's and doctorate in astronomy from the University of Washington in 1974 and 1978, respectively. In 1978, Nelson was selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA.

According to NASA's Web site, Nelson logged a total of 411 hours in space, including 10 hours of extravehicular activity, or work done outside a spacecraft. Nelson was also the first astronaut in NASA history to perform extravehicular activity untethered to any spacecraft.

College students will have newly formed jobs that are nonexistent at this point, Nelson said. While everything keeps changing at a faster rate, he said, it is important for educators not to teach according to job descriptions but rather to give students the ability to have a broad capacity of knowledge that can help them face what



**Former astronaut George Nelson speaks to a crowd about his past experiences in space travel at the ACES Building on Tuesday.**

is to come.

Nelson also shared his space-travel experiences and his projections for the NASA manned space program.

"I'm a bit nervous about where the space program is going at the moment," Nelson said. "Do we need another Sputnik to kick us in the rear and inspire us to do something?"

Nelson has been working on education reform for more than 20 years. He is now a profes-

sor and the director of the Science, Mathematics and Technology Education Program at Western Washington University, and he came to Austin this week to collaborate with associate physics professor Sacha Kopp, coordinator of the talk and an education reformist. Both are writing new class curricula for science elementary school teachers to help create more efficient teaching skills.

Kopp thought it would be interesting for UT students to lis-

ten to someone who was not only an astronaut but an astrophysicist, and who could help physics majors understand what they can do with their degrees besides laboratory work.

Physics junior Bob Bell said the event was inspiring and made him look forward to what he could accomplish.

"He wasn't only speaking to physics majors but to all the science and engineering majors," Bell said. "We have a lot of possibilities."

# Weathercasters' reports affect climate learning

**By Radhika Sakalkale**  
Daily Texan Staff

An ongoing study found that it is not unusual for television weather forecasters to report on climate change, which may affect how television viewers learn about and understand issues, including global warming.

The 10-year study, conducted by Edward Maibach and James Witte of George Mason University and Kristopher Wilson of UT, determined that weather forecasters can play an important role as informal science educators.

The study shows that climate change is a common topic for weather forecasters to discuss on-air. Two-thirds of weather forecasters are interested in reporting on the issue and hold a range of beliefs on global warming, according to the study.

"Our feeling is that there are a group of meteorologists that are more science-based and are trying to use their positions to educate the viewing public about climate change and then there are some very vocal deniers," Witte said.

Twenty-seven percent of weather forecasters consider global warming a "scam" and two-thirds admit "too much scientific uncertainty" as an obstacle to their reporting, despite the near-unanimous consensus among climate scientists about climate change, Wilson said.

"Finding out why this is occurring is one of the goals of our

research, and we expect that by continuing to dig into our data, we can shed some important light on this disconnect between many TV meteorologists and the consensus on climate science," Wilson said.

Weather forecasters were emailed and asked to answer a 20-minute questionnaire about the topic of climate change in their job. The questionnaire had a response rate of approximately 40 percent.

"We've had some interesting open-ended responses of the difficulties that weathercasters face in the newsroom," Witte said. "Often, the lead into the weather forecast will be the anchor talking about a sudden snowstorm in the Northeast and tossing a throw-away line at the weathercaster [like], 'What does that say about global warming?' putting them in an uncomfortable position."

The study, released Monday, is one of the largest and most representative surveys of television weather forecasters to date. It is the fourth installment in a series of studies previously conducted in 2002, 2008 and 2009 that builds on each of the preceding studies and incorporates survey methods to measure public responses to global warming, Wilson said.

The next phase of the study will look at how weather forecasters' delivery affects how their audiences learn and understand weather and climate change.

# AID: Act 'cuts out the middlemen,' expands loan payment plans

**From page 1**

community colleges and increases funding for historically black and minority-serving institutions. It also expands the income-based student loan repayment program by lowering the monthly cap on loan repayments from 15 to 10 percent of discretionary income and reduces the amount of time necessary to obtain eligibility for loan forgiveness from 25 to 20 years for loans issued after 2014.

Doggett said another important step the act takes is to make subsidized federal loans available directly through the Department of Education and to "cut out the middleman."

"Direct lending will be much more efficient, reliable and comprehensive," he said.

The average student graduates from college with \$23,000 in debt, Doggett said.

"This act will help give students peace of mind," he added.

Student representatives from UT, Austin Community College, Huston-Tillotson University and St. Edward's University also spoke at the event.

"At a time where life should be full of endless opportunities, in the

wake of mountains of debt, dreams are forgone for jobs that 'just pay the bills,'" said Garrett Hall, president of College Democrats at St. Edward's University.

UT Student Government President-elect Scott Parks represented UT at the event.

"At UT, our tuition has increased 8.7 percent since deregulation, and increased funding like this is abso-

lutely necessary to maintaining the diversity which makes our University so special," Parks said.

Other speakers at the event included Drew Scheberle, senior vice president of education and workforce development at the Austin Chamber of Commerce, and Barbara Mink, secretary of the Austin Community College District's board of trustees.

Doggett helped increase the availability of student financial assistance in 2008 with an amendment to streamline the FAFSA application process and in 2009 with the Doggett tuition tax credit, Scheberle said.

"Congressman Doggett has done a good job increasing student access to financial aid in the past," Scheberle said.

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# SG gives support to Cactus Cafe in stalled resolution

**By Audrey White**  
Daily Texan Staff

During Student Government’s last meeting of the 2009-10 school year on Tuesday night, the assembly passed five pieces of legislation, including a long-delayed resolution in support of maintaining the character of the Cactus Cafe.

Matt Portillo, a founding member of Student Friends of the Cactus Cafe and a sponsor of the resolution in support of the cafe, said the resolution’s unanimous passage will send a message to the administrators that the facility is important to students. The SG resolution will add to the vocal student response that surfaced after the Jan. 29 announcement that the cafe would be closing, along with a resolution passed by the Graduate Student Assembly in support of the cafe, Portillo said. Graduate student representative John Woods authored the legislation.

“An even stronger message is being sent from students to the administration that we want the Cactus Cafe to hang around,” Portillo said. “We don’t want to wipe the slate clean; we want to build on top of and improve the good stuff that’s already there.”

The resolution was originally scheduled for vote on Feb. 23 but was postponed three times because of inclement weather, failure to reach a quorum and a need for re-examination before reaching the floor for a vote.

Portillo said that although there is no guarantee that the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs will take the resolution into consideration, it is important that a broad student voice is included in the discussion.

Engineering representatives Adam Rosen and Tyler Rosen authored legislation urging the University to examine its policy regarding political signs posted during statewide and federal elections. The current University policy, which prohibits the posting of political signs during elections, conflicts with state law and freedom of speech, Adam Rosen said.

The legislation, which passed with a unanimous vote, suggests

the creation of a task force to investigate the legal and constitutional ramifications of the University’s policy, he said.

“This legislation encourages the University to evaluate the process and policy and see if we need to change it,” Tyler Rosen said. “If it is logistically and economically plausible, I think the University should look at it.”

Other actions included resolutions supporting the gender equity proposals made in 2008 in honor of a retiring University staff member and a housing act that would allow nonprofit off-campus housing entities, including Greek houses and cooperative houses, to use grant money for infrastructure and safety projects, such as installing fire sprinklers.

Humor punctuated the meeting, which lasted nearly three hours. A prank resolution, which did not pass, supported the creation of the

“Have fun, get involved, get angry, yell at someone.”

— Jake Lewis  
Fine arts representative

Basic Access and Accountability Liaisons Student Advisory Committee. The committee, referred to as BAAAL-SAC, was presented as a phallic euphemism.

Outgoing liberal arts representative Andy Jones said he authored the joke legislation as a way to remind SG members to enjoy their time on the assembly and keep the personalities of students in mind.

As the meeting neared its close, several outgoing representatives, including Jones, and outgoing Vice President Shara Ma offered remarks of encouragement and thanks to the assembly. Outgoing fine arts representative Jake Lewis offered the meeting’s final words.

Lewis encouraged a spirit of fun and youth that he said SG sometimes lacks and reminded the assembly that the goal is to be able to “leave and say you helped students.”

“Have fun, get involved, get angry, yell at someone,” he said. “It is absolutely amazing what getting a little anger out of you can do. Then leave the rest of it for the bedroom, where it really belongs.”

The 2010-11 Student Government, as well as President-elect Scott Parks and Vice President-elect Muneezeh Kabir, will be inaugurated April 6.



Danielle Villasana | Daily Texan Staff

Nathan Bunch, University-wide representative, speaks about a resolution concerning the Cactus Cafe at the last Student Government meeting of the year.

# Monument honors trailblazers

*Black legislators given place next to leaders to remember ‘forgotten’*

**By Rachel Burkhart**  
Daily Texan Staff

State and national lawmakers gathered at the Texas State Cemetery on Tuesday for the unveiling of a monument dedicated to Texas’ first black lawmakers.

The African-American Texas Legislators monument, located in the cemetery at 11th and Navasota streets, is dedicated to the 52 black men who served either as state legislative members or as constitutional convention delegates during the second half of the 19th century. Current and past lawmakers, including Speaker of the Texas House Joe Straus; state Sen. Rodney Ellis; and Wilhelmina Delco, the first African-American to represent District 50 in the Texas Legislature, spoke about the history of black civil rights in Texas and the contribution of African-American legislators to the civil rights movement in the 19th century.

Tuesday also marked the 140th anniversary of Texas’ re-admission to the Union and the declaration of the 15th Amendment’s ratification.

“[The monument’s purpose] is to remember the forgotten, reconnect the disconnect and re-light the history that once blazed before the men that we honor today,” master of ceremonies Jason Hill said.

One of the commemorated men was Edward Patton, who was elected to the 22nd State Legislature in 1890. He was also the grandfather and mentor of Barbara Jordan.

No formal cemetery records exist for many of the men commemorated. Some of their descendants were among the ceremony’s attendees.

The legislators will now be celebrated alongside Jordan; Stephen F. Austin; James Pinckney Henderson, the first governor of Texas; and John Connally, who served as the state’s 39th governor, said Scott Sayers, who has been chairman of the cemetery’s committee for the past seven years.



Eric Ou | Daily Texan Staff

The Honorable Wilbert M. Curtis announces the unveiling of a monument dedicated to Texas’ 19th-century black legislators. This monument joins other monuments and the graves of notable Texans in the Texas State Cemetery.

Project director Larry Thomas said he first conceived the monument in 1998 while working for the Texas State Library and Archives.

State Rep. Dawnna Dukes helped sponsor the effort to ob-

tain state funding for the project, Hill said.

“Why did it take so much effort to just have these brave men recognized?” Dukes said.

Another state legislator, Rep. Harold Dutton of Houston, said

that not enough has been done to honor the lawmakers. The State Preservation Board needs to complete its exhibit of early black legislators in the rotunda of the state Capitol and include it with the tour schedule, he said.

# Students recalled from violence-ridden Mexico

*State Department-issued warning affects decision prompting their return*

**By Hannah Jones**  
Daily Texan Staff

For the first time in the University’s history, the International Office asked UT students studying abroad to return from Monterrey, Mexico, to ensure their safety.

The March 23 recall applies only to students enrolled in official study abroad programs at the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education, the only school in Monterrey that hosts UT students, said Christian Clarke Casarez, director of international public affairs for the International Office. Students were asked to come back to the United States immediately after Executive

Vice President and Provost Steven Leslie’s recall, Clarke Casarez said.

Programs in Monterrey scheduled for the summer and fall 2010 semesters have also been canceled, she said.

“University students enrolled at [the institute’s] campuses and university programs in other areas in Mexico, which are not included in the state department’s travel advisory, will not be affected by this decision,” Clarke Casarez said.

The University’s decision was based on several factors, including a travel warning issued March 14 by the U.S. De-

partment of State, an official warden message issued March 5 by the U.S. Consulate General in Monterrey, recent events in the immediate vicinity of the

institute’s Monterrey campus and information provided by the Overseas Security Advisory Council, International SOS and the University’s partners in Monterrey, Clarke Casarez said.

According to the Department of State’s Web site, recent violent attacks have

prompted the U.S. Embassy to urge citizens to delay unnecessary travel to parts of the states of Durango, Coahuila and Chihuahua and to exercise extreme

caution if traveling or residing in those states.

Drug cartels and associated criminal elements have violently retaliated against individuals who speak out against them or whom they otherwise view as a threat to their organizations, according to the department’s Web site. The department has authorized the departure of the dependents of U.S. government personnel from U.S. consulates in the northern Mexican border cities of Monterrey, Tijuana, Nogales, Ciudad Juárez, Nuevo Laredo and Matamoros until April 12.

Michigan State University ranks second among U.S. universities in the most number of students sent abroad, according to the Institute of International Education, and it has also suspended its program, Clarke Casarez said.

# TSM finds buyer for press after 36 years of ownership

*Printing press formerly used by The Daily Texan to be resold in Canada*

**By Collin Eaton**  
Daily Texan Staff

After 36 years of ownership by Texas Student Media, The Daily Texan’s printing press will be removed next week from its longtime residence in the paper’s offices, following its sale to a manufacturing company.

Frank Serpas, assistant director of operations for TSM, said Bell-Camp Manufacturing Inc., a custom steel fabrication manufacturer based in Canada, bought the press from TSM for \$42,500. Bell-Camp does not have the labor capacity to move the press from the Texan offices and has contracted a company to move it. Bell-Camp acquired the press to resell it to a buyer.

TSM originally bought the printing press in 1973 for \$222,000 or \$1,080,606 when adjusted for inflation, as previously reported by The Daily Texan.

“Bell-Camp is the matchmaker. They buy the press and sell it to somebody else,” Serpas said. “The company that was acting as the broker was an infant newspaper company, and basically they were out there looking for someone to buy it, and we heard from them in February that we had a buyer.”

The press was originally scheduled to be removed from The Daily Texan offices this week, but a logistics issue caused the delay, TSM interim director Jennifer Hammat said.

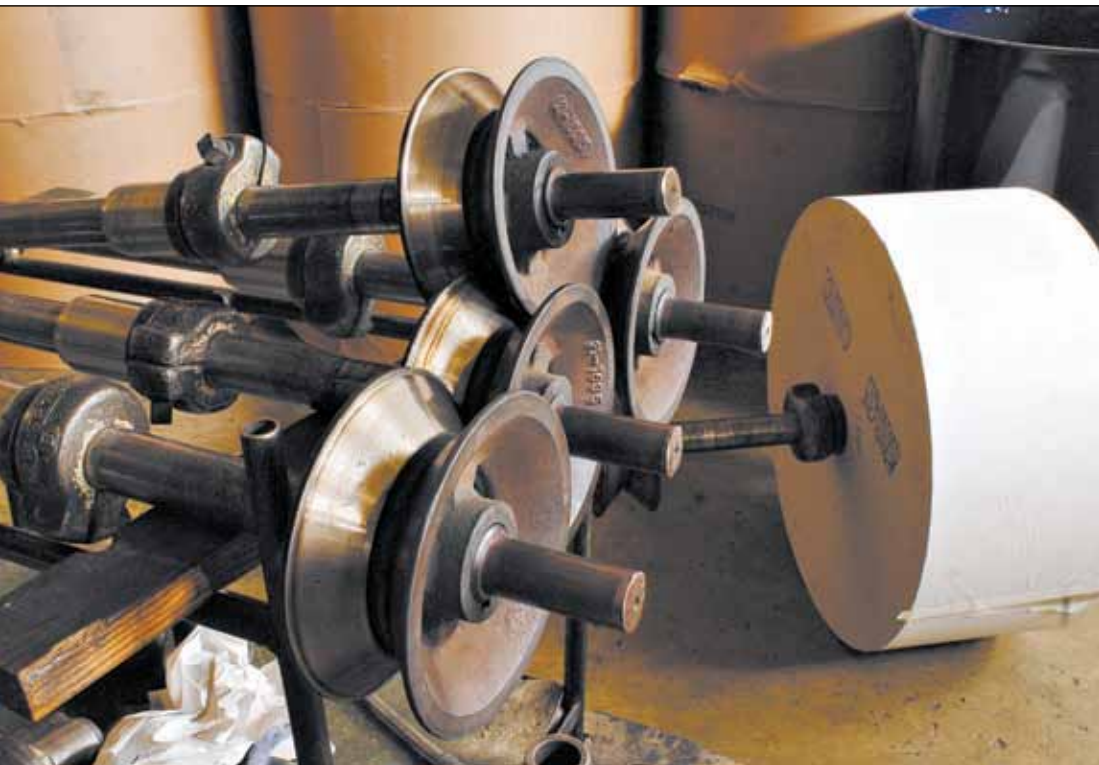
“The reason we have postponed the dismantling of the printing press is because the company that is providing that service decided that we’re too close

to Easter to get it done in time,” Hammat said.

Serpas said TSM decided to sell the press because, in the long term, the operating costs of the printing press would one day cost more money than the paper’s revenue would allow. The printing press would also need to be updated at a cost of \$100,000 to keep up with modern presses.

Hammat said that in 1974, The Daily Texan replaced its printing press, which increased its printing capacity from a 16-page paper that could print 18,500 issues per hour to a 32-page paper that could print 45,000 issues per hour. TSM decided to sell the printing press on Jan. 23, 2009, and the press’s final paper was published in May. The Austin American-Statesman presses now print The Daily Texan.

“Replacing any parts of equip-



Peter Franklin | Daily Texan file photo

Equipment and newsprint sit in the basement of the William Randolph Hearst Building last year after Texas Student Media’s decision to sell its printing press.

ment and adding parts of equipment, whether that be some processing stuff or a latch or a giz-

mo, the total estimated amount of money we put into it over that 36-year period is \$600,000,” Ham-

mat said. “That doesn’t take into account the depreciation factor over 36 years.”



TEXAS RELAYS 2010

It's that time of the year again...



By Chris Tavaréz  
Daily Texan  
Columnist

Annual contests may be unappreciated by those in the UT community

You can definitely tell it's spring. The Nike running shorts are back en masse, crawfish is a regular meal option again and excursions to Barton Springs are more frequent. But one of the biggest signs of the changing of the seasons is the start of the 83rd Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays.

While the Texas Relays are one of the premier athletic events in the country, they seem to go unappreciated by those who live on the campus where it all takes place. They may not be the Final Four or the BCS National Championship, but among track fans, the Texas Relays, along with the Mt. San Antonio College Relays and the Penn Relays, are almost a bigger deal to win than the NCAA championships.

Unfortunately, the event runs the risk of being completely overlooked this year, as it falls on the same weekend as the football spring game and the start of the Final Four (underappreciation seems to be this week's theme in sports — my editor wrote a column yesterday on the praiseworthy swim team, UT's only national championship team in the past three years).

Even Mack Brown understands the magnitude of Texas Relays.

"We couldn't do [the spring game] Saturday because of the Texas Relays," Brown said.

When you have Texas football rearranging its schedule for something, you know it's a big deal. And that's exactly what Texas Relays are, for more reasons than the fact that they constitute one of the largest track events in the country.

Texas Relays is unique in that it combines the best of the best in track and field. All the top performers in high school, collegiate and pro track come to run on one of the best tracks in the country in one of

RELAYS continues on page 9



Stephanie Meza | Daily Texan Staff

Freshman dual-sport athlete Marquise Goodwin stretches during track practice on Tuesday. Goodwin will compete in the 100-meter dash during the Texas Relays. He finished second in the 100-meters two weeks ago at the Hurricane Invitational in Miami, Fla.

Goodwin lives out his dream running track, playing football at UT

By Jim Pagels  
Daily Texan Staff

For most students, starting for two Texas athletic teams sounds like a dream come true. For Marquise Goodwin, though, it is an issue he must deal with every day.

"Training for track can be tough because I have to stay in shape for football, too," Goodwin said.

The freshman has quick feet, clocking 6.69 seconds in the 60-meter this season. But he also has soft hands, catching three passes for 70 yards in the national championship game in Janu-

ary. He is one of those extremely rare physical specimens talented enough to play not one but two NCAA sports for one of the best athletic programs in the country.

Goodwin was one of the most heavily recruited athletes in the nation last year after winning seven state championships and setting the national high school record in the long jump with a leap of 26 feet, 10 inches. After receiving scholarship offers from schools around the country, Goodwin decided to stay in Texas.

"I've always wanted to come to UT, so it's great to come here and live my dream," he said.

Goodwin committed to

TRACK continues on page 8



Caleb Miller | Daily Texan file photo

Marquise Goodwin runs against the Alabama defense in the national championship game in January. Goodwin caught three passes for 70 yards in the BCS game.



Lauren Gerson | Daily Texan file photo

Junior Chantel Malone competes in the long jump earlier this year.

Beginning college at 16, Malone continues to be a standout competitor

By Ryan Betori  
Daily Texan Staff

For junior All-American Chantel Malone, it's been a long, unlikely journey to get to today's 83rd Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays. In fact, you'd have to travel all the way to Caribbean to see where it began.

Malone, the reigning Big 12 long-jump titleholder and 4x400-meter relay national champion, hails from the British Virgin Islands. Like a lot of track athletes, Malone began running at a young age for fun but honed her skills in high school when she and others began to realize how talented she was.

From there, Malone's athletic evolution was rapid. She quickly became one of the most decorated athletes in the island's history, amassing seven medals in a three-year span for the Virgin Islands National Track and Field Team.

But that's just the tip of the iceberg.

What's truly remarkable is that Malone had accomplished

all of this before she was old enough to drive: at age 15.

Malone, who had just graduated high school at that same age, filled out a recruitment form for Texas after deciding that college would be her next step. Despite the fact that many of her elders urged against leaving and that most of her peers were taking a year off to figure things out, Malone had her mind made up.

"I was always competing against older girls, so I wasn't worried about the age factor. I was ready for college," Malone said in her breezy accent.

When Texas assistant coach Rose Brimmer got the form, it immediately caught her eye because they shared the same birthday. Brimmer decided to do some research on the Virgin Island standout. What she discovered was a coach's gold mine.

"Since it said she was 15, I thought maybe she typed her birthday year wrong on the form. So I e-mailed her back, but she was like, 'No, that's my age,'" Brimmer said. "I told [head coach] Bev Kearney about all this. She was like, 'It sounds like you've found a diamond in the rough.'"

But Kearney wasn't the only one to realize how special Malone was. Athletic officials from the Virgin Islands knew it, too. In an effort to persuade Malone's guardians, Brimmer flew down to her Virgin Islands home. While there, the British Virgin Islands Olympic Committee interrogated Brimmer about her plans for Malone. After much discussion, Malone was permitted to leave.

"I told them, if she could succeed anywhere, Texas would be the place," Brimmer said.

Malone thought so, too. She chose the school for its combination of athletic and academic prowess. A motivated premed student, Malone currently carries a 3.68 GPA. She also plays piano and hopes to pursue modeling someday.

Her ability to balance school and track can be credited to her maturity, something unexpected from someone who entered college at 16.

Although being so far from the comfort of family and friends made for some growing pains early on, Malone never let this emotional pressure distract her from her goals.

MALONE continues on page 8

BASEBALL  
ORAL ROBERTS 3, TEXAS 2

Horns struggle in mid-week game

By Austin Ries  
Daily Texan Staff

For the past three Sunday games, it has been all about Texas beating Iowa, Nebraska and Texas Tech by at least 10 runs.

Tuesday, on the other hand, was a different story for the seventh-ranked Longhorns, adding last night's 3-2 loss to Oral Roberts to the list of one-run Tuesday games.

"We played awful," catcher

Cameron Rupp said. "It seems like every time we play [ORU] we have no competitiveness, don't come out to play and come out flat."

For Texas it was another tough mid-week day at the plate, leaving 11 runners on base with seven strikeouts.

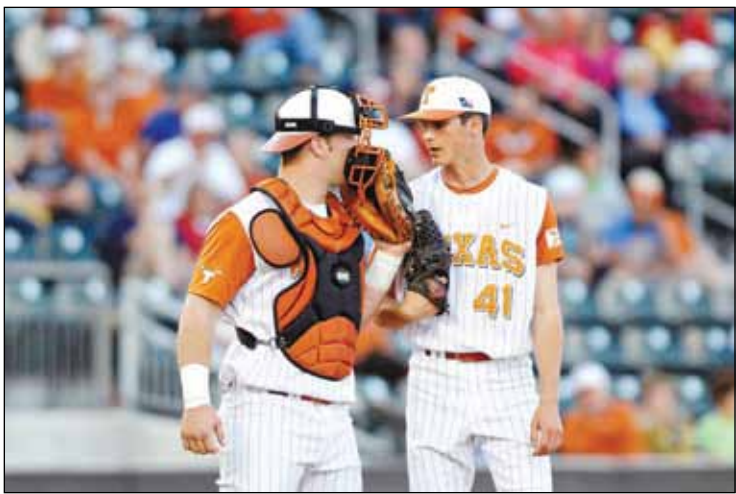
"Mid-week games, we've fallen asleep in and haven't competed in," Rupp said. "We need to come out ready to

play better."

Head coach Augie Garrido attributed it to one thing: Texas' lack of competitiveness.

"Compete or lose," Garrido said. "I don't know what they were thinking about or where they were in their own mind, but they weren't focused on competing inning by inning, pitch by pitch the way we try to train

BASEBALL continues on page 9



Eric Ou | Daily Texan Staff

Catcher Cameron Rupp and pitcher Hoby Milner chat on the mound during Tuesday night's game. The Horns lost to Oral Roberts, 3-2.

SIDELINE

NCAA Women's  
Tournament

No. 3 Florida State 50  
No. 1 UConn 90

No. 4 Kentucky 68  
No. 3 Oklahoma 88

NCAA Men's  
Tournament

No. 4 North Carolina 68  
No. 2 Rhode Island 67 F/OT

No. 3 Dayton 68  
No. 3 Ole Miss 63

NBA

Sacramento 95  
Indiana 102

Oklahoma City 111  
Philadelphia 93

Phoenix 111  
Chicago 105

LA Clippers 89  
Milwaukee 107

Washington 94  
Houston 98

NHL

Boston 1  
New Jersey 0 F/OT

NY Rangers 4  
NY Islanders 3

Atlanta 3  
Toronto 2

Ottawa 5  
Washington 4 F/OT

Tampa Bay 2  
Columbus 3

Edmonton 4  
Detroit 5

Chicago 2  
St. Louis 4

Los Angeles 2  
Nashville 0

Phoenix 1  
Vancouver 4

SPORTS  
BRIEFLY

UConn heads to Final Four with 40-point win over Florida State

The Connecticut Huskies swear they're not perfect. Their last 76 opponents might disagree.

Maya Moore scored 22 points to lead the Huskies past Florida State 90-50 on Tuesday night, sending the defending champions back to the Final Four and stretching their unprecedented win streak to 76 games.

"It's the time of the year when you want to play your best," said Moore, selected as the regional's most outstanding player. "We're on a roll right now. We're confident. That's what you guys are seeing. We still have some things we need to improve. We're not perfect."

Tina Charles controlled the paint with 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Huskies (37-0), who advanced to their eighth Final Four since 2000 where they will meet Baylor in the semifinals Sunday night.

The 40-point victory was the largest margin ever in a regional final.

"Boy, they make you play ugly," Florida State head coach Sue Semrau said, shaking her head. "We missed a ton of shots, but that's because they did such a great job in every area."

The Huskies are dominating unlike any team ever. No team has come within 12 points of them all season. They have won their first four games of the 2010 NCAA tournament by a record 188 points — a margin of 47 points a game.

Coach Geno Auriemma was humbled by the latest bit of mastery.

"We get on this run and ... I don't know how to explain it," he said, sighing heavily. "We're good, though."

His team's defensive intensity mixed with remarkable talent can turn a close game into a lopsided one quickly.

"I was happy the way the first half ended. We were up 14 and we didn't play great, and Maya hasn't played at all," Auriemma said. "Then I look up and we're up 25, 30. When we start defending you and you start getting a little quick and start losing your composure and the ball starts flying all over the place ... all of a sudden we're up 40 points."

— The Associated Press



**SOFTBALL**  
TEXAS 8, UTSA 7; TEXAS 9, UTSA 7



Freshman Blaire Luna winds up for a pitch Tuesday night against UTSA. Texas swept UTSA in a doubleheader.

# Longhorns sweep UTSA

By Kate Guerra  
Daily Texan Staff

Each member of the Longhorns' softball team has a little toy soldier with her number on it. The soldier reminds the players that their season is comparable to a war: They have to keep fighting to be successful. The Longhorns emerged victorious in both games in Tuesday night's doubleheader against UTSA.

In the first game, freshman pitcher Kim Bruins (7-3) looked to be well on her way to an easy win, until she allowed five runs in the sixth inning that pulled the Roadrunners within one. Freshman Blaire Luna replaced her to strike out the final batter of the inning and added three more in the seventh to seal up the 8-7 victory. The win was Bruins's first since March 10 against UTEP and Luna's third save of the season.

Texas had two home runs in the game. Junior Shelby Savony knocked a three-run shot out of

the park in the fifth inning, and senior powerhouse Tallie Thrasher added a solo homer in the second.

Freshman outfielder Taylor Hoagland may have ended her hitting streak of 21 games in the first game of the doubleheader, but she still found a way to make an impact on the night's events. After senior pitcher Erin Tresselt (6-1) gave up three quick runs to start the second game of the evening, Hoagland was able to get the Longhorns on the scoreboard with a two-run home run in the fifth inning. Texas used a second home run by senior shortstop Loryn Johnson to push two more across and take a 4-3 lead.

A one-run lead was not comfortable for Texas as UTSA threatened with a runner on third and two outs in the bottom of the seventh. Luna, who entered the game in the fifth inning, was able to get the save with a groundout to end the game, getting her fourth save of the season.

Luna has appeared in each of

the Longhorns' past four games, twice as a starter and twice as a relief pitcher.

"I think that when Blaire is in the circle, the team is very comfortable and confident that she's the type of pitcher that if she keeps getting better, can help you win championships down the road," head coach Connie Clark said.

The wins only add to the excitement of a team coming off a 2-0 start in Big 12 play and looking to remain strong for the rest of the season. The Longhorns attribute their energy to a growth in confidence since last year's season and stress the importance of a close connection between the players to how they communicate on the field.

Next up for Texas is a home game tonight at Red and Charline McCombs Field against Texas State. The two teams met recently in San Marcos when the Bobcats hit a three-run walkoff home run to end the game 9-7. The game is scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m.

# MALONE: Team pumped up for relays

From page 7

"There were times when I felt like crying, but I knew it wasn't going to be a walk in the park," Malone said. "But I loved my teammates and running, so I just kept the bigger picture in mind."

Her transition was also made easier by the encouragement of her coaches and teammates, in particular former sprinter and long-jump standout Alexandria Anderson.

"Our relationship is like big sister/little sister. Whenever she needs something, I'm in her corner," Anderson said. "I've seen her grow so much into the woman she's going to be."

Malone can best be described as reserved and collected, and she brings this attitude to the track.

"My teammates ask, 'Chantel, why are you always so relaxed?'" Malone said. "But what's the sense in stressing? I'm nervous before meets, but I just channel my energy in a different way."

Although Malone tends to bring a certain cool, she's far from shy when the need presents itself.

"If someone's messing up, she won't bite her tongue," Rose said. "She calls it like it is."

All of these aspects of Malone's personality — her calm, confidence and maturity — undoubtedly have contributed to her success at the last two Texas Relays.

The weeklong event, which features track and field's finest high school, college and professional athletes, is one of the biggest athletic events of the year. They offer a whirlwind of athletic spectacle that is unmatched by other track meets.

"It's crazy, phenomenal. Everyone's pumped and going wild," sophomore sprinter Angele Cooper said. "It's almost like a Texas football game."

Such an atmosphere could sink many athletes, but not Malone. As a 16-year-old freshman, the Texas Relays were one of the first events that she partici-

pated in. Despite the chaos, Malone turned some heads with her seventh-place finish in the long jump.

"Everyone was like, 'How did they get this girl?' and 'How did they find her?'" Brimmer said while chuckling.

In her sophomore year at the relays, Malone improved even more. She placed third in the long jump and fourth in the triple jump.

Now, as a seasoned 18-year-old, Malone is ready to take it even further. Over the summer, she became a student of her craft. Thanks to YouTube, Malone has watched hours of track footage, hoping to lock in her technique.

"She just has to continue to do what she's been doing," Anderson said. "She needs to light that spark and be like, 'This is my house, and I'm not going to lose in my house.'"

That shouldn't be a problem. After all, she's been at it since she was 15.

# TRACK: Goodwin is an 'electric' athlete

From page 7

Texas after the state track meet his junior year at Rowlett High School in Garland.

"After he committed, we were really able to build a strong recruiting class around him," said Bubba Thornton, the men's track and field head coach.

A two-sport athlete in high school as well, Goodwin was a two-time all-district wide receiver. However, he was initially recruited to UT only on a track scholarship. He had other plans.

"I just came in with the mindset that I'm going to do both," Goodwin said after making Texas' only touchdown catch in the 16-13 win over Oklahoma in October. "I do have to prove myself. People don't really respect me as a football player. They look at me as a sprinter."

Goodwin had 30 receptions for 279 yards and a touchdown this season.

Doing both sports has its limitations, though. Goodwin has missed all of the football team's spring drills. Football head coach Mack Brown has already stated that Goodwin will be one of the top four receivers next season.

"He's going to be a super player for us this year, not just in the future. He's a guy that makes a difference for us," Brown said during football season.

Goodwin said the two sports actually seem to complement each other.

"Track helps with speed in football, and football helps with tough-

ness [in track]," he said. "During track, I'm 100 percent focused on track, and during football, I'm 100 percent focused on football."

The coaches don't seem to have any issues with it.

"It's always been a two-way street, and everyone wants the best for him," Thornton said. "You just gotta tip your hat off to the guy."

Goodwin has made his mark on the track as well. Competing in the long jump and 60-meter, the freshman won three events in the indoor season and just missed making the finals for the long jump at the NCAA national championships three weeks ago.

During the outdoor season, he will transition to the 100-meter, in which he already finished second two weeks ago at the Hurricane Invitational in Miami.

Goodwin will be held out of his best event this week at Texas Relays, though.

"It's hard not being able to jump, but I'm just trying to take as much stress off [my body] as possible right now," he said.

While only a freshman, Goodwin finds a way to motivate his teammates who have already been competing for years.

"Marquise is an electric athlete who loves Texas and loves track and field. It's a lot of fun for older guys like me to be around young guys like Marquise because of the excitement and work ethic they bring to the track," senior Tevan Everett said. "I've really enjoyed having him around this season and I'm definitely excited to see

what he can do outdoors."

Goodwin, who has already competed at the 2008 World Junior Championships in Poland, hopes to one day compete for his country in the 2012 Olympics. It certainly helps to have the U.S. men's coach as his coach at UT.

Thornton, who coached the U.S. team to 14 medals at the Beijing Olympics, definitely believes that his young star has the potential to join him in London in two years.

"With his high standards of himself, nothing is going to surprise me," Thornton said. "I know he's dreamed it, so for Marquise, that means it's possible."

For now, Goodwin is focusing on the all-important Texas Relays this week.

The event is the second biggest of its kind in the nation, with more than 5,000 high school and collegiate athletes competing at Mike A. Myers Track and Soccer Stadium. The annual event generates more than \$8 million for the city of Austin.

"It's a great opportunity to get these young guys in front of all this electricity in front of the home crowd," Thornton said.

The pressure of thousands of spectators watching at his home track doesn't bother Goodwin. He has already competed in front of thousands on the international stage.

"It feels pretty much the same [as other meets] to me," he said. "We're at home. No stress, just more fun than anything."

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## BASEBALL: Horns need heart to recover from loss, beat OU

From page 7

the team. They abandoned the plan."

The difference in the game was in the top of the eighth when Golden Eagle pinch-hitter Jared Schlehuber hit a solo home run to the deepest part of left center field off reliever Austin Dicharry. The two-strike blast gave ORU a one-run lead half an inning after Texas tied the game in the bottom of the seventh.

"It wasn't pretty, and I was pretty anxious," Schlehuber said.

The Horns couldn't rally back.

"It's on ourselves; we have to have heart," Rupp said. "Some of the guys have it in them. I know we do. That's what it's gonna take."

A week from his first career start as a Longhorn, Sam Stafford started his second straight Tuesday game. Against Rice, he was perfect. Against Oral Roberts, he gave up one run on two hits.

Stafford started the game walking his first two batters, but after a quick visit from pitching coach Skip Johnson, Stafford settled down to strike out the next six hitters he faced — three looking and three swinging.

"Sam pitched great, and all the relievers did well," Dicharry said. "We just try to pitch to contact, but it will all come together."

The Golden Eagles struck first in the top of the third. Stafford

walked center fielder Joey Winiecki and gave up a single to right from left fielder Tyler Garewal before shortstop Tyler Saladino singled to bring home Winiecki. Stafford came back to end the inning with back-to-back looking strikeouts.

ORU tacked on another run off relief pitcher Hoby Milner in the sixth off a single and three walks to score Golden Eagle second baseman Colby Price.

After stranding seven runners in the first five innings, the Horns finally scored thanks to a two-out RBI single to right from designated hitter Kyle Lussion.

Texas tied the game in the bottom of the seventh. After Cohl Walla struck out, shortstop Brandon Loy singled and Cameron Rupp reached on a hit-by-pitch before first baseman Tant Shepherd bloopered a single into right field to bring Loy home.

Tuesday's loss brings Texas to 18-8 on the season with a series against Oklahoma coming up this weekend in Norman.

"For me, it makes me excited about tomorrow's practice and what we can do to get on track and get more competitive," Garrido said.

Loy agreed.

"We just have to stay in our element and it will work out for the best," Loy said. "It's not about putting pressure on yourself, it's about having fun."

## SWIM: Reese wins his 10th championship

From page 1

"I'm not easily satisfied, mainly with myself. I'm always trying to learn more and get better at what I do, and I don't care who I ask in order to find that out," Reese said. "I'll call someone who coaches a club team, and if they had a good year, I want to find out how and why they had a good year."

Reese is ranked second all-time in NCAA championships with 10 championships to his name, just one behind former Ohio State coach Mike Peppe. He said he believes this championship is no different from any of his national titles.

"Any time you win in the NCAAs, it doesn't matter if it's checkers or throwing darts blindfolded, there's always a lot of people out there that want to win

and compete against you, so it's a great honor to win this and a credit to the guys and the hard work they've done," Reese said.

The veteran coach also achieved another landmark. He became the first coach in NCAA Division One swimming and diving history to win titles in four different decades.

Competing at the top level is always a grueling task, but Texas managed an individual and relay title in addition to its title push. Freshman Austin Surhoff shone, becoming the second Longhorn to win the 200 individual medley. Olympic gold medalist and senior Ricky Berens was part of a quartet of swimmers who won Texas' second-straight 800 freestyle relay.

The delayed commencement of the NCAA championships was

difficult for Berens and his colleagues to cope with.

"With us getting sick, it really put us back, and we had to change the mentality of a lot of the teammates and get us back on the right track," Berens said. "Our young guys did incredible. Austin Surhoff winning a national title as a freshman ... to swim lights-out was a huge step up as freshmen."

Ahead of Texas' postseason stretch, assistant coach Kris Kubik credited the seniors' leadership as a major catalyst for the team's success. Berens was fantastic for the Longhorns all season and won the Big 12 men's Outstanding Swimmer of the Meet along the way. He was co-captain of the team and set the example for his younger teammates.

"I'd tell them to go for the goals

that you aim for all year long and stay focused," Berens said. "We stayed pretty calm this year, leadership-wise. We had me, Alan Maher and Hill Taylor as captains, and it was really relaxed because we had a lot of fun this year."

Berens set the standard for Texas this year, being the fastest Longhorn in four events: the 200 freestyle, 400 freestyle relay and the 100 and 200 butterfly.

This is Berens' last season at the University, but the Olympian doesn't plan on leaving the Forty Acres too soon.

"I'll still be here training with Eddie and Kris because you can't really beat the coaching staff you have here," Berens said. "I love Austin as a city, I love this team, I love the coaches, so I'm stuck here training for London 2012."

## RELAYS: World-class athletes, talent come to Austin

From page 7

the biggest meets in the country.

When I covered the Texas Relays last year, it was one of the most enjoyable events I've attended as a reporter. But that could be because, unlike most students on campus, it wasn't my first foray into the event.

During my brother's senior year at Klein High School, he was part of the gold medal 4x800-meter relay that set the fastest time

in the nation in 2003, and a couple years after the record setting, I went to the event to watch some of my friends from track compete. For some weird reason, they never let me run.

When you go to Mike A. Myers Stadium, you know you're going to see some world-class talent, but you never know exactly what you'll find. Last year, former Longhorn Destinée Hooker was proposed to after she finished competing in the high jump.

In years past, you could have seen the world's then-fastest man, Maurice Greene.

You might have gotten a chance to catch up with Quan Cosby after his game-winning touchdown in the 2008 Fiesta Bowl, chat it up with Jamaal Charles about his days running for Bubba Thornton or talk to President William Powers Jr. about what the event means to Texas.

For Texas, the first weekend in April is about showcasing the

world-class talent that it can bring in, from former greats like Mar-shavet Hooker and Alex Anderson to current studs like two-sport athlete Marquise Goodwin and 800-meter stars Tevan and Tevas Everett.

Last year, Goodwin gave Longhorn fans a taste of things to come when he competed in the meet as a high school senior. Who knows what will be on display this year?

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VGE

**The New York Times Crossword**

Edited by Will ShortzNo. 0224

**Across**

- 1 Fix firmly
- 6 Bust \_\_\_\_ (laugh hard)
- 10 Colombia's second-largest city
- 14 Walled city of Spain
- 15 "Forbidden" perfume brand
- 16 Service closer
- 17 Focus of some contemplation
- 18 Control tower word
- 19 Cozy corner
- 20 Hoopsters turn down singer Stevie?
- 23 Singing the blues
- 24 Filled fare
- 25 Taxonomic suffix
- 26 Misplace comic Costello's prives?
- 31 "The Square Egg" author
- 34 Keen on
- 35 Maximilian I's realm: Abbr.

**Down**

- 1 Admiral and others
- 2 The first Mrs. Trump
- 3 Like some imaginations
- 4 T.V.A. output
- 5 Have a word with
- 6 On the double
- 7 Filled fare
- 8 Alpine goat
- 9 Rat race casualties
- 10 Alternative to "Continue" in an online order
- 11 In a frenzy
- 12 13 popes, so far
- 13 Tattooist's supply
- 21 Airline in the Star Alliance
- 22 "No harm, no four"
- 26 Sass
- 27 Pee Wee Reese, for the Dodgers
- 28 "Heavens!"
- 29 Top prizes at the Juegos Olimpicos
- 30 Zaire's Mobutu \_\_\_\_ Seko
- 31 Part of many musical notes

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A	P	E	R	T	U	R	E	S		S	A	B	O	T
V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	E		C	L	I	M	E
I	L	L	A	T	E	A	S	E		A	L	F	I	E
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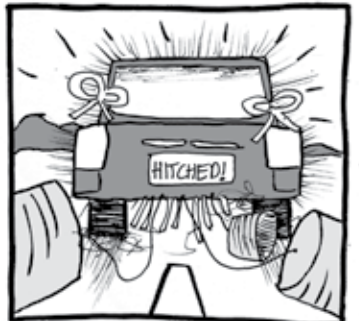

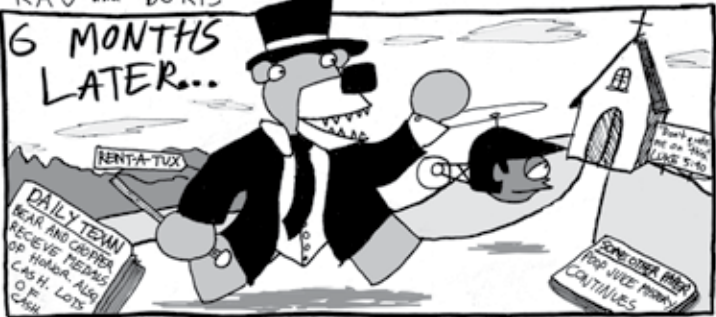
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HUMP: Porn fills void for sexual education

From page 12

pleasure from pornography takes the power of sex away from women. Now women have less to compel men to choose them and more pressure to accommodate acts that conform to a pornographic aesthetic.”

Pornography’s role in shaping the expected aesthetic of sexual interactions is a primary source of frustration for the anti-porn camp. A notable proponent of this movement is journalism professor Robert Jensen, author of “Getting Off: Pornography and the End of Masculinity.”

“Flooding a culture with graphic, sexually explicit material that is primarily rooted in a domination-and-subordination dynamic based on gender does intensify the existing tendencies toward viewing sex as a place for domination and subordination,” Jensen said.

Jensen also contends that the male-dominated erotic imagination of mainstream pornography helps to fuel a hypermasculine culture of violence and sexual aggression, thus shaping the gendered expectations of men in our society.

But there is another strong feminist countercurrent that opposes Jensen’s view. It is epitomized by the growing participation of self-identifying feminists in porn production. From Sasha Grey to porn producer Tristan Taormino, women are becoming active in attempts to redefine pornographic media as a form of expression. Taormino is a porn producer who makes porn for women, fighting the norm in the male-dominated porn industry.

“Porn is an easy target,” porn producer Taormino said when I asked her about the popular tendency to blame misogynistic acts of violence and the objectification of women in porn.

“Quite frankly, there are a whole bunch of institutions with long, deep histories that [have really] contributed to the amount of violence in our culture,” Taormino said. “Porn did not invent rape or violence against women.”

She said that for the most part,

people are able to make distinctions between real life and the things they might see in porn.

“Are there people [who] don’t have good boundaries, [who] won’t make that distinction? Absolutely. But I don’t know that the porn is going to make them run out and rape people,” she said “I think it goes a lot deeper than that.”

Taormino and like-minded women who participate in the production of porn make it obvious that pornography cannot be discussed strictly in terms of men and masculinity. It is undeniable that watching pornographic media is an experience shared by people from both genders. And even for people who don’t choose to consume pornography, chances are high that their romantic and/or sexual partner(s) have. In this way, pornography is undeniably pervasive.

“[Porn] is coloring relationships, both long- and short-term, reshaping expectations about sex and body image and, most worrisome of all, threatening to alter how young people learn about sex,” Pamela Paul wrote in a 2004 Time magazine article, “The Porn Factor.”

What’s misleading about Paul’s statement is that it posits porn as supposedly infiltrating an already healthy environment of information dissemination on sexuality.

But this “fact” is patently false. Porn isn’t so much replacing an established model of successful sex education as it is filling the void where sex education could be.

Of the diverse sampling of students I have interviewed in over a year of working on Hump Day, only one student cited her high school sex education as helpful (she attended a private school), and only two students identified their parents as purveyors of information on sex and sexual health.

It seems that porn is not “threatening to alter how young people learn about sex” as much as it is providing an avenue — often the sole avenue — through which sex can be learned about

or explored openly by young people. In many ways this vision of pornography’s role can be understood as even bleaker than the one posed by Paul.

Nevertheless, the “answer” to many people’s revulsion to pornography is implicit between the lines of Paul’s ill-conceived statement. Maybe if there were an alternate platform where youth could participate in an explicit dialogue about sex (an idea that even people as ideologically opposed as anti-porn activist Jensen and porn producer Taormino could agree on), then the perceived and real dangers of pornography could be avoided, solved or at least confronted openly.

As of yet, the contemporary pornography industry remains a platform for the proliferation of antiquated illustrations of hypermasculinity. But the social dynamics that shroud sex and porn in mystery only work to reinforce the power of the images depicted in mainstream pornography.

Can porn really be held accountable for capitalizing on the secrecy that we ourselves have built around sex or what it means to be a man?

GAME: ‘Castlevania’ adapts nicely to Wii

From page 12

The same can’t be said for “Mega Man 10,” which does little to build on this format and only proves there are only so many good names to give a “Mega Man” boss — Sheep Man not being one of them. There is still much fun to be had for the nostalgic gamer, but do not underestimate this warning: This is one of the hardest games in the series.

Pattern recognition, proficient hand-eye coordination and well-timed jumps are the only way through this 8-bit trial. After exhausting every nerve, you’ll wonder what could be done to evolve the “Mega Man” format and whether Capcom will ever follow suit.

**Grade: C+**

**Castlevania: Rondo of Blood (Wii)**

I don’t have any idea what a “rondo” is, either, not to mention how you’re supposed to fill it full of blood. Unlike “Mega Man 10,” “Rondo” isn’t retro — it’s just old.

Released in 1993, the game never made it overseas. It soon became one of the most esoteric games of its era because of its obscure platform (PC Engine CD) and high bidding

price on eBay. Thanks to the Wii’s Virtual Console, you’ll only need to spend \$9 rather than \$120. Even with the high asking price, you are getting one of the best of the series that holds up just as well as its Super Nintendo and Playstation entries, despite its lack of nostalgia.

The game’s multi-path level design, hidden playable characters, clever set pieces, intense boss fights and lush soundtrack set it apart. I wouldn’t have had nearly as much fun as I did if it weren’t


for Rose, a character unique to this entry, who has a fluidity and range that will make the rest of the game much easier and give it a much different feel.

The game is brief, but with multiple paths and playable characters. After many lackluster handheld entries and the recent “Castlevania Rebirth” (also for Wii), this is the true return to the series fans wanted, even if in reality, it’s merely a missing chapter.

**Grade: A-**

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# Plays place gay issues front and center

By Victoria Heckenlaible  
Daily Texan Staff

Political lobbying and theater merge in the mind of Austin playwright and UT alumnus Allan Baker to present a conversation not often heard in local theater. Thursday is the opening of “Connect: Four Short Plays,” a series of four plays that feature moments of connection in both heterosexual and homosexual relationships.

“[Baker’s] plays are real conversations between people we don’t normally see, getting to how we connect,” said Jude Hickey, who plays two of the main characters in “Click” and “A Midsummer Night’s Conversation.” “[The plays show] gay people acting a way we don’t normally see [onstage].”

Beginning in the early ‘90s, Baker was a gay political activist at the Texas Capitol. He fought many legislative battles, like allowing homosexual couples to adopt, while serving as the chairman of the Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus and on the executive committee of the board of directors of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (now Equality Texas).

“[The fight for equal rights] has gotten easier in Texas and in Austin, generally,” he said. “I know exactly what it’s like to grow up gay. And I thought it was very important that the next generation not have to fight the fight I did.”

By working with Equality Texas, Baker began to see the positive effects of storytelling on members of political opposition.

“[I] realized that unless you put the stories of gay lives in front of people, you can’t do anything else,” Baker said. “If [people] know someone, it’s harder to say my brother or my next-door neighbor



Rene Huynh | Daily Texan Staff

Trey Townsend, Alexa Doggett, Sharon Elmore and Kirk Burg rehearse lines from “Voices,” part of gay political activist and local playwright Allan Baker’s “Connect: Four Short Plays.”

should not have the same right I do.”

After retiring from political involvement in 2006, he began to write plays using the same storytelling method. The sexual orientation of his lead characters introduces audience members to different lifestyles and gives the characters’ perspectives a place onstage.

“I decided that there would be another way of [activism],” Baker said.

“Politics is more about winning the minds, and theater is the way you win the hearts. And more wars are won by winning hearts.”

Baker continues to tell these life stories on stage in the form of four 30-minute plays. Proceeds from the ticket sales will go to AIDS Services of Austin, Out Youth Austin and the Equality Texas Foundation.

**WHAT:** “Connect: Four Short Plays”

**WHERE:** The Off Center

**WHEN:** April 1 through April 17

**TICKETS:** \$15-\$30 general admission. Ticket sales benefit AIDS Services of Austin, Out Youth Austin and the Equality Texas Foundation.

## UT alumnus examines relationships in GLBT community with four short plays

### ‘Click’

The first play is about two gay men trying to meet online for a Saturday night hookup. It is a story of potential connection with three levels of communication; two men talk to each other online, talk to themselves and, finally, talk to each other outside their online conversation about the two types of relationships they truly desire — one sexual, the other intimate.

The differences between the men’s desires highlight a common problem for both heterosexual and homosexual relationships: how to go from just sex to something more.

Despite the universality of this issue, Baker noted that he incorporated specific elements of gay culture through the inclusion of the common practice of online hookups.

This play was originally produced as part of Austin’s 2008 FronteraFest at Hyde Park Theatre.

### ‘Five Minutes’

Set in the World Trade Center during Sept. 11, “Five Minutes” focuses on the connection someone chooses to establish within the last five minutes of his or her life.

There are three pairs: two women who are co-workers and friends; two men who have just met; and a gay couple with one partner in the tower and one at home.

The two women talk about family and faith, the men talk about baseball and family and the gay couple “give each other the only last gift they can,” Baker said.

The two men who have just met struggle with making a unique bond, realizing that a stranger’s face will be the last they will ever see.

In the 2006 FronteraFest, “Five Minutes” was named a “Best of the Fest” and was chosen to run in New York as a part of the Emerging Artists Theatre’s Fall Festival of Short Plays. The final scene with the gay couple was elongated into a 10-minute play as part of the 2009 Gay Pride Festival in New York City.

### ‘Voices’

In this play, Baker takes the idea of multiple generations speaking to each other in death from Thornton Wilder’s “Our Town” to explore a disruption in family connection largely caused by the terrifying 97-year-old grandmother, Martha.

The conversation’s participants are based on Baker’s family members: his uncle, who died at 14; the ancient aunt; the scary grandmother; the aunt who died giving birth to her fifth child; and the gay cousin.

The diversity of his family led Baker to wonder at the conversation that would take place if the dead could speak.

In the play, the gay cousin plays Wilder’s character Simon Stimson, to whom the play is dedicated. After reading “Our Town,” Baker was left with the impression that the choirmaster character was gay.

“If you read the story, you realize that that was his problem,” Baker said. “And I thought, I wonder if I could retell [his story].”

The play was originally produced as part of Austin’s 2009 FronteraFest and was a finalist for Emerging Artists Theatre’s 2009 Spring Festival of One Act Plays in New York City.

### ‘A Midsummer Night’s Conversation’

The final play speaks to the decision to further a romantic connection or cut it off entirely. A gay couple has a conversation in bed about whether or not to take the next step after the first four months of their relationship, while highlighting both universal and more homosexual-specific relationship struggles.

Throughout the play, both characters are nude to show their level of exposure.

“I wanted to have a gay couple that’s very exposed,” Baker said. “They are exposing each other and themselves.”

Actor Jude Hickey said his character, Ben, toils with the idea of loving someone, but Baker noted that another problem lies in still being in the inner closet.

“The inner closet [is the feeling many people have] who think they are out, but really are not,” Baker said. “And this may be an impediment to a relationship.”

This will be the first run of “A Midsummer Night’s Conversation.”

## Porn takes questions of masculinity to next level



### By Mary Lingwall

Editor’s note: This is the final part in a series exploring masculinity at UT.

By Mary Lingwall  
Daily Texan Staff

There is a myriad of institutions that mold masculinity in America. Surely religious groups, youth organizations, high schools, popular media and sports culture can all be analyzed with respect to their relationships to our working definitions of masculinity. But I write a sex column, so I’m looking at pornography.

Pornography is consumed at a much higher level than popular film or even sporting events are, so its presumable effects can be estimated to be more potent than those of mainstream representations of gender.

“The adult entertainment industry rakes in more money than pro-football, basketball and baseball combined,” according to a 2001 “Talk of the Nation” show about porn on National Public Radio. “Americans spend more money on pornography than on movie tickets and the performing arts.”

Men are the primary consumers and target audience of most professional pornography.

It is important to make the distinction between professional pornography made by companies with ethical policies and standards and the illegally pirated, often nonconsensual pornography freely distributed on the Internet.

And the fact that porn is a capitalist industry based on supply and demand ups the ante in terms of what will be depicted. For example, porn actors typically fulfill a physical stereotype — the sexual act is often unrealistically easy to engage in and the actual acts continue to push the boundaries of social norms to keep the consumer base’s interest piqued.

The ramifications of this sort of sex-cum-capitalist endeavor are undeniable.

“Sex comes cheaply to men [today],” said Mark Regnerus, an associate sociology professor and author of “Forbidden Fruit: Sex and Religion in the Lives of American Teenagers.” “Sex validates men in so many ways, and if they don’t have to do anything to acquire it, then they won’t. And that’s why men aren’t really complaining about the state of men. It’s women who are complaining. And this is where porn can play into the situation: The high quality of men’s

HUMP continues on page 11

### VIDEO GAME REVIEWS

## Latest Mega Man romp just more of the same

By Allistair Pinsof  
Daily Texan Staff

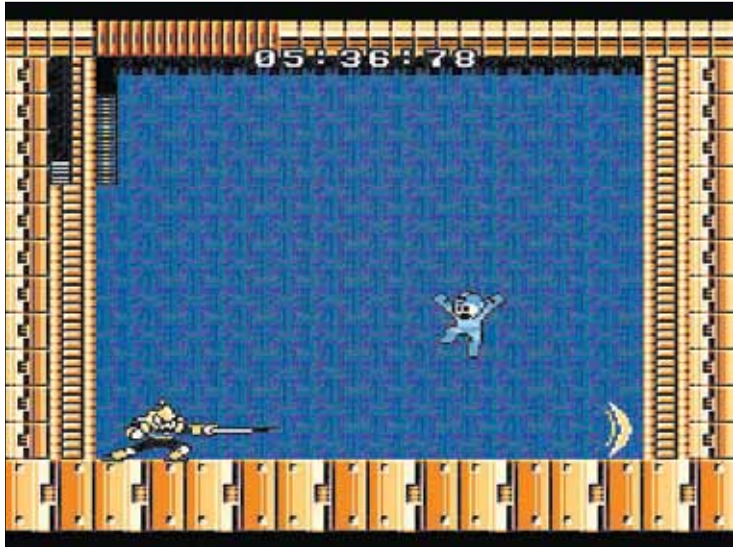
**Mega Man 10**  
(Wii/Xbox 360/PS3)

Where 2008’s “Mega Man 9” was a risky, retro throwback that refused to reflect its year in everything except distribution (via downloadable services), the follow-up finds Capcom, once again, banking on repeating a proven formula.

Not that there was any doubt

that a Mega Man title that slavishly follows the 8-bit iterations format — defeating eight bosses in any order, gaining their abilities, then using them in a difficult finale — would be good, but there was suspicion that it wouldn’t be good enough for this century. It was because the levels were ingenious, the bosses were well-balanced and the difficulty was challenging but fair.

GAME continues on page 11



Courtesy of Mega Man

The latest installment in the “Mega Man” series, “Mega Man 10,” uses the tried-and-tested formula that has proven successful for Capcom.

### MOVIE REVIEW

## ‘Furniture’ looks at suite of problems

Filmmaker focuses feature on own life; portrays self in reality-driven story

By Gerald Rich  
Daily Texan Staff

SXSW Narrative Feature Film winner “Tiny Furniture” offers a highly personal and quirky window into the life of writer, director and actress Lena Dunham after she graduates from college and tries to sort out what she wants to do with her life.

Dunham, a native New Yorker who came to Austin for SXSW last year to make connections for the film, plays herself through the protagonist, Aura. The story begins when Aura returns home to her mother’s sterile, white New York apartment after graduating with a degree in film theory and breaking up with her boyfriend at Burning Man.

As she begins to readjust to life at home with her mother and sister, played by Dunham’s real-life mother and sister, Aura finds a colder-than-expected welcome in that she’s the only one who seems to be uncertain about her future. Her mother is a constantly busy art photographer, contrasting tiny furniture

dioramas with larger human elements, such as a foot, and her sister is a brilliant high school student about to head off to a prestigious college.

Despite dealing with such a serious topic, the film maintains a great sense of humor by making light of socially-awkward situations, such as when Aura argues with her mother because she wants a guy to sleep over.

From a scene where she repeatedly scrambles in and out of windows to follow her friend at a party to one in which she recites a melodramatic, anxiety-induced rant, Dunham manages to make her search for meaning humorous while playing herself throughout the film — one of the most challenging roles because actors often run the risk of simply not acting at all. Yet, Dunham and her family manage to capture their lives so well the film could have easily been made into a documentary instead of a narrative film.

Making a movie about one’s life can also be a downside for a narrative. Rather than the typical format of beginning, middle and end, Dunham’s story is real life; it’s not as clear-cut as most narratives. The camera captures her life over the



Courtesy of Tiny Ponies

After college, Aura falls into a funk when she moves back with her family in “Tiny Furniture,” an adaptation of Lena Dunham’s life story. The film was the SXSW Narrative Feature Film winner.

period of several days without having a solid resolution to her struggle to find meaning.

Nevertheless, the narrative feature film portrays Aura’s postgraduate life not so much as some would like it to be, a period of hardship magical-

ly resolved through hard work and perseverance, but merely as a painful time of growing up. Through her uniquely personal film, Dunham manages to touch upon a commonly shared anxiety of not knowing what to do next.